
The MCA Advisory

The Newsletter of Medal Collectors of America

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Board Members

John W. Adams, President
John Sallay, Vice President, jsallay@comcast.net
Barry D. Tayman, Treasurer
Vicken Yegparian, Secretary, VickenY@stacks.com
David T. Alexander, davida@stacks.com
Robert F. Fritsch, bobfritsch@earthlink.net
David Menchell, dmenchell@aol.com
Scott Miller, wheatabix@comcast.net
Ira Rezak, ira.rezak@med.va.gov
Donald Scarinci, dscarinci1@aol.com
Michael Turrini, emperori@juno.com
Benjamin Weiss, Webmaster

John W. Adams, Editor

99 High Street, 11th floor
Boston, MA 02110
john.adams@canaccordadams.com

Barry Tayman, Treasurer

3115 Nestling Pine Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042
bdtayman@verizon.net

Benjamin Weiss, Webmaster

benweiss.org@comcast.net

Website: medalcollectors.org

Editor of Collectors' Guide, Dick Johnson
(dick.johnson@snet.net)

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Coming Events

Member's Meeting July 31, 2008

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Room 316, ANA Convention

From the Editor

This issue features an outstanding article by Barry Tayman and Tony Lopez. Barry, our redoubtable treasurer, is a specialist in Canadiana, particularly Indian Peace Medals. Tony is the modern coming of Sherlock Holmes, witness his article in the June issue. The combination of Barry and Tony is a truly potent one.

Our cup and your cup are indeed running over: in addition to the Tayman-Lopez article, Joe Levine contributes a heart warming farewell to his longtime friend, Neil MacNeil. Reading this tribute, you will be uplifted by the quality of friendships that our hobby can inspire. Joe, we are all grateful for your eloquence.

Our meeting in Baltimore—Thursday, July 31st at 3:00p.m.—will feature Jim Cheevers' talk on the United States Naval Academy and its Medals. You will seldom be privileged to hear one so well versed in his subject nor we can imagine a pithier topic that collections which include the John Paul Jones gold medal among others of comparable renown,

ANA Exhibits

MEDALS STRUCK BY THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON (By Ben Weiss)

This group of medals, commonly called The City of London Medals, constitutes a series struck by THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON to celebrate the accomplishment of their most notable public works, or to commemorate events of national and civic importance.

In general, the medals in this series are of particularly high quality as they were executed by some of the finest medalists of the period, including several members of the Wyon

family, the sculptor George C. Adams, the Belgium medallist Charles Wiener, and the fine Austrian medallist Anton Scharff.

Most of the medals were struck in numbers between 350 and 450; a notable exception is the lead, glass-enclosed piece commemorating the Removal of Temple Bar from the City of London, which is extremely rare.

The exhibit includes all of the medals in this series issued in the nineteenth century, some 30 medals in all. Several of them are in their original cases and some are in their original boxed set of two. The latter sets, in particular, are especially rare.

Neil MacNeil Journalist, Author and Numismatist

A Reminiscence (by H. Joseph Levine)

Neil MacNeil, died of lung cancer at his home in Bethesda, Md. on June 7. He was 85. He was nationally known as Time Magazine's Chief Congressional correspondent and as a founding panelist on PBS's "Washington Week in Review," a program which grew out of his public affairs show, "Neil MacNeil Reports From Congress."

MacNeil's reputation as an expert on Congress stemmed from his 1963 book, "Forge of Democracy", a history of the House of Representatives. To this day, the book is considered required reading for anyone seriously interested in the history of that hallowed institution. He was working on a companion book on the history of the United States Senate at the time of his death. That work was virtually complete and plans for its posthumous publication are been made.

Numismatists know the name, Neil MacNeil, as the result of his authorship of "The President's Medal, 1789-1977" (1977), a history of the Presidential inaugural medal. The

book was underwritten by the National Portrait Gallery and was published in conjunction with its exhibition of Presidential inaugural medals at the time of the inauguration of Jimmy Carter in 1977.



I had met Neil a few years earlier. It was inevitable that we should meet. I was beginning to establish my reputation as a specialist in Presidential Inaugural Medals and Neil left no stone unturned in his search for them. He had put his reporter's skills to use in ferreting out the rarities of the series by contacting the descendants of inaugural committee leaders. He interviewed all of the living sculptors of the medals and talked with family members of those who had passed. In so doing, he acquired not only a complete set of

bronze official medals but many of the silver and a few of the gold presentation pieces. I was able to help him fill in with the few pieces he was unable to unearth himself. In the process, we became close friends – a relationship which lasted over thirty years.

Neil was the quintessential collector! His first love was books. Over the years he built a library relating to the institution and membership of the House of Representatives that was unrivaled. That collection is now housed at Georgetown University. Like his father before him, Neil was president of the Clan MacNeil Association of America and his collection of hundreds of books on Scottish history was a testament to his interest in all things Scottish.

He was a proud Scot who was often irked by the way in which Scots were unfairly portrayed as cheapskates. I suggested to him that what the Scots needed was what we Jews had – an Anti-Defamation League! Neil thought this to be a grand idea and declared that he would form “The Scottish Anti-Defamation League.” “The first thing we have to do is get some letterheads made up.” The letterheads, he stated, would list Neil MacNeil as President; Ian MacIan as Vice President, Donald MacDonald as Secretary and Gregor MacGregor as Treasurer. “And then, just to show the world we really mean business, the Legal Counsel will be H. Joseph Levine!”

His interest in fly fishing led him to collect Izaak Walton's, *The Compleat Angler*.” An insight into Neil's collecting mentality is that he sought out each and every one of the 160+ editions of this work beginning with the first edition of 1653 and ending with some very modern imprints. Neil eventually sold this collection at auction – it lacked only three editions from being complete.

Neil's interest in Official Inaugural Medals began with his inheritance of a small group of them from his father, Neil MacNeil. The senior MacNeil had been the assistant night managing editor of the New York Times

and later served as the editorial director of the second Hoover Commission and as an assistant to the former President. His father's Hoover medal served as the starting point for Neil's quest.

Neil was well into building his collection when the Watergate scandal began to rock Washington. Vice President Agnew had resigned and Michigan Congressman Gerald R. Ford had been selected to replace him. In the midst of these events, MacNeil visited Ford and told him that, in his judgment, Nixon would either resign or be successfully impeached and that Ford should prepare to succeed to the Presidency. In the ensuing discussion, MacNeil suggested that if this happened, it would be appropriate to strike an inauguration medal – as Ford's elevation to the presidency would truly be an inauguration. Ford was interested.

Following up on this, Neil visited fellow medal enthusiast, Senator Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.) and told him about his idea. Hatfield was intrigued, but both knew that nothing could be done or be discussed publicly as long as Nixon was in office. Then Hatfield had a brainstorm – why not have an “interim” medal – a medal commemorating Ford's becoming the first Vice President under the 25th Amendment. And so the first Official Vice Presidential Inaugural Medal was born. It was followed in short order by the official Ford Presidential medal and then by the Rockefeller Vice Presidential medal. MacNeil and Hatfield were the prime movers in both instances.

I was well aware of Neil's opinion as to the inevitable ending to this drama. As a result, when my firm advertised the Ford Vice Presidential medal, I stated, “Save this medal to display along with the Ford Presidential Inaugural medal which will probably be issued sometime this fall!” This audacity was rewarded with a prominent mention in *The Lyons Den*” a syndicated column penned by the well known journalist, Leonard Lyons.

Shortly after this, Neil began work on *The President's Medal*. Marvin Sadik, the then

Director of the National Portrait Gallery became aware of the project and offered to have the NPG sponsor the publication of the book in conjunction with an exhibition of the medals. Neil agreed and the result was a grand success; a well-attended exhibition and a book which remains to this day the magnum opus on the subject of inaugural medals.

The book was his catharsis and Neil asked me to find a customer for his collection. Waiting in the wings with the same enthusiasm that Neil had in the beginning years of his quest, was David W. Dreyfuss. Mr. Dreyfuss purchased the MacNeil Collection intact and proudly displayed it, along with his additions, until 1986, when he passed away and his collection was auctioned in New York by Bowers and Merena and my firm, Presidential Coin & Antique Co., Inc.

Although he no longer actively collected inaugural medals, Neil never lost his interest in them. He continued to be active in the selection process, being a member of every inaugural medals committee from 1981 through 2005. It was through his intervention with Senator Hatfield that I was invited to serve on the 1989 Medals Committee (and consequently all subsequent committees through 2005) and he encouraged me to write my own book on collecting inaugural medals. On appropriate occasions, when he wanted me to do something for him, he would kiddingly inform me that everything I was, I owed to him. The fact is that there really was a good deal of truth to that statement. Neil's friendship and mentoring were important foundation stones in my early career. Even more important was his support during several personal crises.

It is indeed sobering to realize that now when I pick up the phone and answer “Presidential,” there will be no one on the other end to respond, “Hello Presidential, Congressional here!” Farewell my friend!

A Mysterious Medal Yields up its Secret (by Tony Lopez and Barry Tayman)

The landmark sale of the collection of John J Ford's Indian Peace medals in September of 2006 and May of 2007 was greatly anticipated. It was well known that Ford cherished his collection of Indian Peace medals more than any other part of his extensive holdings.

Lot number 25 of the second sale by Stacks (Ford XVIII), was an original issued Canadian Treaty 7 medal with an unusual inscription engraved on the edge, described as: **"F.M.: H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT -:- TEENCHAKA EEYA OONKA. STONY TRIBE, 1916."** The cataloguer, Michael Hodder, provided a brief biography of Lord Connaught: "Connaught (1850-1942) was Victoria's son and was Governor General of Canada (1911-16) at the time this medal was engraved."

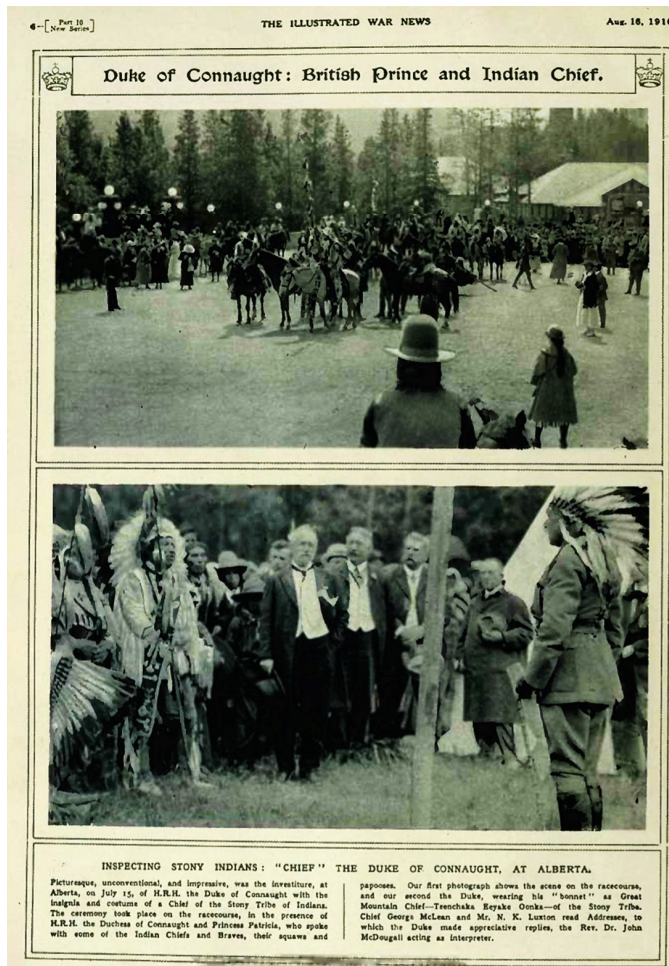


The Duke of Connaught was His Royal Highness Prince Arthur William Patrick Albert, second oldest son of Queen Victoria. (Thus H.R.H. on the inscription.) Prince Arthur was designated as the "First Duke of Connaught and Strathearn and Earl of Sussex" by Queen Victoria in 1874. Arthur had a long and distinguished career in the British Military, and was commissioned as a Field Marshall in 1902. (Thus F.M. on the inscription.) Prince Arthur had a great affection for Canada, having visited there as a child, and was appointed Governor General of the Dominion of Canada from 1911-1916.

Michael Hodder listed the previous auction appearance of this medal as lot 306 of Sotheby's sale of June 24, 1970. That cataloguer correctly described the engraved edge with the Indian's middle name spelled EEYKA, as engraved. In describing the medal, he reached the reasonable conclusion that it was re-issued to an Indian recipient when the

Duke visited the tribe in 1916, and was made a Chief:

“It is probable that the medal was presented unnamed—as was the usual practice—and that it was returned for official naming in honour of the visit of the Duke of Connaught (Governor General and Commander in Chief of Canada, 1911-1916). It was on this visit that he was made an honorary Chief of the Stony Indians. Treaty No. 7 was signed on September 22, 1877, with the Blackfoot, Blood, Peigan, Sarcee, and Stony Indians. A medal of this type, with the Treaty number and date removed, but officially named on the edge, to a Sioux Chief, and dated 1895, was sold by Sotheby & Co. (Canada) Ltd., October 28th 1969.”



Muncie Post-Democrat July 22, 1921



Connaught wearing the Teenchaka Medal—This Front page article from the July 22, 1921 Muncie (Indiana) Post-Democrat has a vignette of Titled Indian Chiefs from Canada. It includes a 1916 picture of Prince Albert wearing Indian Chief regalia, and a large Indian Peace medal bearing the portrait of his mother, Queen Victoria

The style of engraving on the edge of the medal suggests that it was likely done by a local jeweler, rather than a master engraver. One can only speculate as to what mint, or Government officials would have produced for such an important recipient had they been involved in the award to the Duke rather than the tribe. However, any such Royal award would have none of the meaning, and none of the significance of the original 1877 Treaty medal which the tribe gave up to the Duke (only 3 of the 10 medals issued went to Stony Chiefs). By the re-awarding of this medal to the Duke, the tribe created a singularly unique medal; one that was originally awarded to First Peoples who, in turn, awarded it to a member of the British Royal family. Clearly, the tribe held the Duke in high regard.

Although, as will be addressed below, three contemporary accounts spelled the Indian's middle name as EEYAKE, as noted in the aforementioned Sotheby sale it was engraved EEYA. We note that those accounts were prepared after the medal was engraved, and presented. More importantly, if the engraved spelling of EEYA was likely an error, it was nevertheless awarded to the Duke as engraved. Any debate as to which spelling is the correct one, is lost to history, and in any event, is of little importance since that spelling is at best an English phonetic approximation of the Indian pronunciation of that name.

While history has provided much information about Lord Connaught, determining the identity of the Indian named on the medal – Teenchaka Eeyka Oonka – has not been so simple. Significantly, no Indian with that name appears as a signatory to Treaty no. 7, but many of the Indian names used were spelled phonetically, and have many spellings. One of the Stoney Tribe Chiefs was named John Chenaka. Could Teenchaka be a phonetic variant of Chief John Chenaka? We found other spellings for his name...Cheneka, Cheeneka, but not Teenchaka. Museums, libraries, and even the Stoney Tribe were contacted in order to find the identity and history of the elusive and mysterious Teenchaka, without success. After nearly one year of searching, the only single reference found was a Teenchaka in a confusing romance novel from the 19th century, having nothing to do with the Stoney Tribe or the era.

Recently, we uncovered that the word "Oonka" possibly appeared somewhere in "*The Illustrated War News*", a weekly illustrated newspaper published by "The Illustrated London News" from 1914-1918. While there would seem to be no reason to find any reference to Chief Teenchaka in a newspaper about the events occurring in "The Great War", it was the only remaining possibility to investigate. Happily, an almost complete set of "The Illustrated War News" was found online.

Unfortunately, an extensive search to find out when and where the word Oonka appears within those roughly 5000 pages of newspapers came up completely empty.

Finally, in frustration, we reverted to old fashioned research which necessitated going through the online copies of the newspaper one page at a time. That source consists mostly of photograph, and captions. Furthermore, captions to photos are not always seen as text, but are seen as part of a graphic, making it impossible to search for those words electronically.

After two days, and nearly 1000 pages of searching, we came across the August 16, 1916 edition of "The Illustrated War News". There, below two large pictures of a Native American gathering, we read the caption "Inspecting Stony Indians; "Chief" The Duke of Connaught, at Alberta." The second photograph of that article clearly establishes that the Indian recipient of the medal in question was in fact the Duke himself, who is depicted wearing his "Bonnet" as Great Mountain Chief – Teenchaka Eeyake[the same spelling that appears in 2 contemporary newspapers] Oonka – of the Stoney Tribe". Given the significance of this award, we have reproduced the entry from the Illustrated War News.

Calgary Daily Herald July 17, 1916

THE CALGARY DAILY HERALD, MONDAY, JULY 17, 1916



Duke of Connaught Is Now Teenchaka Eeyake Oonka of the Stonies

BANFF, July 17.—Saturday, in the sunshine under the great open sky, a singular and solemn ceremony took place when His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught was made a chief of the Stony tribe of Indians. At 4:15 two automobiles containing the duke and duchess, the Princess Patricia, Col. Stanton, military secretary, and other members of the royal suite, arrived at the race track. They were met at the gate by a detachment of the R.N.W. M.P., and escorted to the race track. The cars drew up to a cleared space between two teepees, where two chiefs in feathers, paint and beadwork, stood to receive their distinguished guests. Then in line all the other chiefs, as wonderful as the first two, were grouped in a semi-circle with the braves, squaws and papooses of the theatre. She had a very good seat in the front row.

Stoney tribe. Behind them all were many of the great tribe, eager to witness the interesting rites that invested his royal highness with the insignia of chieftainship.

The duke in uniform approached the chiefs and Chief George McLean read the impressive address of welcome in the Stony language, which was interpreted by the Rev. Dr. John McDougall, D.D. Then Chief McLean presented his royal highness with the valuable and beautifully engrossed insignia or token of his chieftainship. The inscription was on fumed leather in the syllabic language of the Indians, on the corners being wonderfully designed sketches of a moose head, full sized mountain sheep, mule deer and the head of a grizzly bear. The back was on buckskin, prepared and fanned by the Stonies, and a fringe of buckskin surrounded the whole.

Then the chief placed a medal of

1877 around the duke's neck and invested him with a chief's bonnet. The medal was very large and made of solid silver. On one side was a bust of Queen Victoria, and on the reverse the raised figure of a policeman, representing the law and an Indian shaking hands. N. K. Luxton then read an address and presented the duke with a full Indian costume. The costume was a unique affair of beautiful workmanship and color.

His royal highness replied to the addresses, the Rev. McDougall interpreting for the Indians. The duchess and princess then left their cars, and Norman Luxton introduced them to the chiefs. The ladies shook hands with them all and spoke a few words of greeting. The Indians were delighted with the royal visitors, and the princess in particular won their broad approving smiles.

The duke's name will be Great Mountain Chief, the Indian of which is Teenchaka Eeyake Oonka.

It was an impressive sight as well as curious. There was nothing of the burlesque; nothing took place that was not full of grave meaning to the Indians. They made a mighty chief, a chief to whom they will be loyal. Many moons will rise and wane, many years may pass, before he will come again; or perhaps he will never come. Yet

the Indians will forget never. They have made a chief. They will remember, and abide always by the law honor of the great English chief.

Newspaper accounts of the event in both the Calgary Daily Herald of July 7, 1916, and the Crag & Canyon of Banff, of July 22, 1916, shed further light on this important event. Significantly, both reporters commented that the Duke was presented with a medal of 1877.

The reporter for the Calgary Daily Herald stated:

“[t]he chief placed a medal of 1877 around the Duke's neck, and invested him with a chief's bonnet. The medal was very large and made of solid silver. On one side was a bust of Queen Victoria and on the reverse, the raised figure of a policeman, representing the law and an Indian shaking hands.

Similarly, the reporter for the Crag & Canyon also took pains to describe the medal in his article:

His Royal Highness was then decorated with a chief's medal, a huge disc of silver bearing on one side the words: “Treaty medal of 1877”—commemorative of the treaty between Great Britain and the Blackfeet, Bloods, Piegiens, Sarcees, Southern Crees, and Wood and Mountain Stony tribes of Indians—and two raised figures, a policeman, and an Indian, and on the obverse a raised portrait of Queen Victoria. The Duke was requested to remove his cap, and invested with a chief's headdress, when the assembled Indians saluted him as chief.

In view of the importance of this award, we have also reproduced the article from the Crag & Canyon in its entirety.

Banff Crag & Canyon July 22, 1916

Crag & Canyon

"HOLD TO THE LINE, LET THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY WILL."

BANFF, ALTA., JULY 22, 1916

VOL. 17.

The Duke of Connaught a Chief of the Stony Tribe

His Indian Name is Teenchaka Eeyake Oonka, meaning
Great Mountain Chief

The 26th anniversary of Indian Day, held at the Banff race track on the 14th and 15th inst., was successful both from point of attendance and the quality of the sports and games staged by the Stony Indians.

Each event on the program was pulled off as pre-arranged, the Indians entering into the different sports with a vim and earnestness which added greatly from an on-lookers standpoint.

The grand climax to the two days' entertainment was staged Saturday afternoon when the Duke of Connaught, governor general of Canada was invested with the prerogatives and dignity of a chief of the Stony tribe of Indians.

Two automobiles conveying the Duke and Duchess, the Princess Patricia, Colonel Stanton, military secretary, and other members of the royal suite, arrived at the entrance to the race track at 4:15. They were met at the gate by a detachment of the R. N. W. M. P. and escorted to the Indian village, just east of the track.

A cleared space had been prepared between two teepees and the function took place in the open air. With the vivid green grass for a carpet and the blue sky for a canopy, the towering heights of Cascade mountain forming a background, no more fitting stage could have been prepared for the solemn and interesting rites which made a scene of the reigning house of Great Britain a chief of one of the tribes which originally owned this fair Canada of ours.

Forming a line between the two teepees stood the chiefs of the Stony tribe. Back of this line were grouped the braves, squaws and papooses, while behind them and occupying every point of vantage were massed several hundred white men, women and children—all eager and anxious to witness the interesting rites that invested His Royal Highness with the insignia of chieftainship.

The two cars containing the royal party drew up in front of the cleared space and the Duke stepped

from the car and took the position assigned him immediately in front of the chiefs, who were most gorgeously attired in feathers, bead-work and buckskin.

Chief George McLean of the Bearpaw clan, representing the South side of the Morley reservation, then read the following address of welcome. The address was written in the syllabic language of the Crees, and was interpreted by the Rev. John McDougall, D.D., of Calgary, the veteran Indian missionary:

"In the Rocky Mountains"
Banff, July 15, 1916.

"To His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught, Governor General of this Dominion.

"Great Chief—We, the Mountain Stony people of Alberta, welcome you and your Duchess and Princess Patricia to the land of our fathers.

"We humbly assure you that as our people were loyal to your royal mother, our noble queen, during the years of the last century, so we continue to-day and believe in the sovereignty of Great Britain and gladly obey the laws of his government.

"We wish to inform Your Royal Highness that we are constantly praying for the success of the Allies and we ardently hope that soon (if it be the will of the great, good Spirit) an honorable and just peace shall be reached, full of blessing unto all men.

"Wishing for Your Royal Highness and your party a safe journey and ever needful mercy, we will ever pray.

Chief George McLean.
Chief Jonas Benjamin.

"His Royal Highness was next presented with the token or wampum of chieftainship. This insignia was a beautiful specimen of burnt work on fumed leather, the back and fringe being of buckskin prepared and tanned by the Stonies. The two upper corners contained a Moose head and a full-sized Mountain Sheep, while in the lower corners were a Mule Deer and the head of a Grizzly Bear. In the centre was the following inscription written in Cree—the characters of which are somewhat similar to our stenographic system:

"Be it known unto all men that to-day:
Here, in the heart of the great mountains;
Here, in the presence of many distinct peoples:
Here, in the presence of the great, good Spirit;

We, the Mountain Stony people, are about to make a chief.

He is the Duke of Connaught, and already a great chief.

But from to-day he will be a great chief of the Mountain Stony people.

We name him the 'Great Mountain Chief,' or Teenchaka Eeyake Oonka."

As the wording of the token was read in the musical Indian language Rev. Dr. McDougall interpreted it for the benefit of the Duke and the spectators.

His Royal Highness was then decorated with a chief's medal, a huge disc of silver, bearing on one side the words "Treaty Medal of 1877"—commemorative of the treaty between Great Britain and the Blackfeet, Bloods, Piegiens, Sarcees, Southern Crees, and Wood and Mountain Stony—tribes of Indians—and two raised figures, a policeman and an Indian, and on the obverse a raised portrait of Queen Victoria. The Duke was requested to remove his cap and invested with a chief's head-dress, when the assembled Indians saluted him as chief.

N. K. Luxton read the following address:

"In the Rocky Mountains,
Banff, July 15, 1916.

"To His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught, Governor General of this great Dominion, Chief Teenchaka Eeyake Oonka:

"We, representing the Indian Day committee of the Canadian National Park, Banff, beg Your Royal Highness to accept, from N. K. Luxton and J. I. Brewster, this Indian costume characteristic of the Stony people and the mountains wherein we meet to-day.

"We have many pleasant memories of your former visits to Banff and vicinity and will hope that some time in the future you will again honor this Dominion and this great Park with the grace of your presence.

"Your loyal servants,"
N. K. Luxton.
Jas. I. Brewster.

The Duke made suitable and feeling replies to the addresses, and assured the chiefs that he fully appreciated the honor conferred upon him and promised to take advantage of the earliest opportunity of having himself photographed in his chief's costume and would send a copy to each of the chiefs.

The Duchess, and Princess stepped from their cars and were presented to the chiefs and their wives, N. K. Luxton acting as master of ceremonies. The ladies shook hands with the chiefs and spoke a few words of gracious greeting.

Following cheers for their new chief the Stonies sang "God Save the King" in the Indian tongue, their voices mingling harmoniously.

A moving picture machine and scores of cameras and kodaks were busily operated during the ceremony, transferring the scenes to films.

The honor of the Stony Tribe was not the first Indian Chieftom given to Prince Albert. At the time of the 1916 celebration, Prince Albert already had enjoyed nearly a half century as an Iroquois Indian Chief. In October of 1869, as a young boy, Prince Albert had been designated as the undisputed "Chief of the Six Nations Indians". This was a serious designation and not simply honorary. In the 1911 "*Legends of Vancouver*," author E. Pauline "Tekahionwake" Johnson refers to Prince Arthur as "A Royal Mohawk Chief" and reveals that Arthur "possesses the privilege of sitting in their councils, of casting his vote on all matters relative to the governing of the tribes, the disposal of reservation lands, the appropriation of both the principal and interest of the more than half a million dollars these tribes hold in Government bonds at Ottawa, accumulated from the sales of their lands. In short, were every drop of blood in his royal veins red, instead of blue, he could not be more fully qualified as an Indian chief than he now is, not even were his title one of the fifty hereditary ones whose illustrious names composed the Iroquois confederacy before the Pale-face ever set foot in America." The author Johnson was the daughter of Onwanonsyshon, head chief of the Mohawks, and official escort of the young Prince Arthur during the ceremony in 1869.

And so, one mystery still remain: whose 1877 medal did the tribe award to the Duke?

As noted above, the Stony Tribe was only presented with three of the 10 medals issued for the 1877 treaty. Chief George McLean, also known as "Walking Buffalo" represented the Bearpaws Nation of the Stony Tribe at the investiture of the Duke as a Stony chief. As chief, he succeeded "Masgwaahsid", also known as Chief Jacob Bearspaw, a signatory of Treaty No. 7, and therefore one of the 3 recipients of an 1877 Indian Peace Medal. Interestingly, according to the Canadian Encyclopedia Historical, although only a child, future Bearspaw Chief

McLean was present at the signing of Treaty No. 7 and likely witnessed the ceremony.

As a great honor to the Prince, it seems reasonable to speculate that Chief McLean must have presented His Royal Highness with the only Treaty No. 7 medal that the Bearspaw Nation could have possessed: the original medal awarded to Jacob Bearspaw at the signing of the 1877 Treaty. Our opinion is reinforced by a photograph of George McLean in the Glenbow archives wearing an Indian Peace medal that it is definitely not a Canadian Treaty medal of the type awarded to the Duke.

This medal was twice awarded and has a dual provenance. It was an original medal likely awarded to Jacob Bearspaw at the signing of Treaty No. 7, and subsequently was awarded by the Bearspaw Nation of the Stoney Tribe to Teenchaka Eeyka Oonka, their "Great Mountain Chief" and English Prince. Thus, this medal now becomes the only known officially awarded Indian Peace medal that in turn was subsequently awarded to a Royal by a native tribe. With the overwhelming majority of Indian peace medals now cloaked in anonymity, Teenchaka's award now assumes a place at or near the head of the genre.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr. Sallay,

I have a medallion from the Berwind White Coal Mining Co. in Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary. It is approximately 3 inches across and 1/4 inch thick, it depicts a miner holding a piece of coal on one side and on the other the word EUREKA, a ship in a square and a factory. At the bottom 1886 1936 made by TIFFANY CO. Could you tell me more about this medallion please? I have tried to contact people from Web pages with no luck. Thanking you for any help in this matter.

Regards,
Ron Bryant

Hi Ron,

I don't know this particular medal, except that this company was (I think) in the Philadelphia area and Berwind is still a big name in that part of the Mid-Atlantic states. And separately, Tiffany was quite active making selling medals of this sort in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and their products are generally well-made and avidly collected.

I'm copying on this reply Joe Levine, the head of Presidential Coin & Antique Co., probably the most experienced and highly respected auctioneer of this sort of medal. He might be able to tell you more and would most likely be able to help you sell it if that's your interest. I'll also copy Dick Johnson, who has one of the most encyclopedic memories related to medals, in case he knows of the piece.

John Sallay

John:

Of course I know the medal.. It is a common Tiffany medal. What does he want to know (other than how much is it worth)? Is this his full correspondence?

Dick Johnson

Dick,

Yes, this is the entire correspondence, so I'm not sure what he might want to know. Perhaps you could let him know a little bit about the medal, how common it is and some ballpark on value. I know that we've talked within the MCA about not doing valuations for people, but I'm not sure there's much harm in giving an order-of-magnitude estimate.

Thanks,

John Sallay

Dear John,

Below is a description of the Berwind White medal as has been described in our auctions. It is a relatively common medal. The last few examples that have appeared on eBay have brought in the \$100.00 range.

Joe Levine

“From his grasp on the Rio’s dark shore.”

Q. David Bowers

**BERWIND WHITE COAL MINING
COMPANY 50TH ANNIVERSARY, 1936.**

Marquisee 375; Museler 72/20. 81.3mm.
Bronze. (Tiffany & Co.). Choice Unc. Obv: A kneeling miner holds a chunk of ore and a pickax. 50th anniversary legend. Rx: A steamship, and a train with a factory behind, both in square panels. EUREKA inscribed on a banner above, and 1886-1936 on a banner below. Signed at bottom: TIFFANY & CO. Edge marked BRONZE and an Old English “m” (For Edward C. Moore, superintendent of manufacturing and a company director.

E. J. Berwind, the founder of this company is renowned as the original owner of The Elms, one of the famous Newport, R.I. “cottages”. The Berwind Corporation is still in business today.

Dear John,

The New Orleans *Daily Delta*, September 20, 1846, had an article, “Medal for Gen. Taylor,” devoted to a gold medal authorized by Congress. A poem, “A Design for the Medal Awarded by Congress as a Nation’s Gratitude to Major General Taylor of the United States Army,” composed on September 18, 1846 by DeCastillon, included this as one of four stanzas:

“Seek ye for that medal a coat or a crest?

“Let the Eagle of Liberty soar!

“In his talons the sword and the olive branch
pressed,

“Whilst his been holds that banner the foe
could not wrest

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c/o Barry Tayman
3115 Nestling Pine Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Or email completed form to: bdtayman@verizon.net
MCA WEBSITE: <http://www.medalcollectors.org>